

CS 3.11.2 - Institutional Environment

The institution takes reasonable steps to provide a healthy, safe, and secure environment for all members of the campus community.

Compliance Finding: In Compliance

Narrative:

The University of South Carolina Beaufort (USC Beaufort) takes reasonable steps to provide a healthy, safe, and secure environment for all members of the campus community. USC Beaufort is committed to providing a safe work environment that is free of recognizable hazards. The administration adheres to the policy that all employees should comply with all applicable state and federal standards, codes and regulations, including the occupational safety and health standards established by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). Several offices share the administrative responsibility for the health, safe, and secure environment of the campus. The academic laboratories are under the direction of the Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, and a faculty committee is charged with the oversight of the safety of laboratories. The Vice Chancellor for Finance and Operations directs the facilities and maintenance staff as well as the public safety staff. Physical plant safety issues is the responsibility of the facilities and custodial staff, and the public safety department provides campus security. The administration recognizes that the health, safety, and security of the campus involve the use and care of equipment and facilities as well as the environment for employees, students, and visitors.

The University of South Carolina Environmental Health and Safety Office has developed a comprehensive program for all campuses of the USC system. The Environmental Health and Safety Program [i] encompasses many areas of safety and environmental issues. The EHS web site contains the safety program guide and the safety-training page, which indexes all classes and recommendations for employees that are required to take the class. The maintenance and custodial staff participate in the training programs [ii] offered through the Environmental Health and Safety Program. Physical plant supervisors monitor the training needs of their staff, and attendance logs for training programs are maintained by the facilities and maintenance director.

Table 1 2007 Training Schedule

CLASS	DATE	CAMPUS
Lab Safety	Aug 9	Columbia
Lab Safety	Sept 14	Columbia
Lab Safety	Oct 15	Columbia
Lab Safety	Nov 16	Columbia
Lab Safety	Sept 14	School of Medicine
Lab Safety	Nov 16	School of Medicine

HAZARDOUS WASTE		
Hazardous Waste	Aug 9	Columbia
Hazardous Waste	Sept 14	Columbia
Hazardous Waste	Oct 15	Columbia
Hazardous Waste	Nov 16	Columbia
Hazardous Waste	Sept 14	School of Medicine
Hazardous Waste	Nov 16	School of Medicine
BIOSAFETY		
BioSafety	Aug 10	Columbia
BioSafety	Sept 10	Columbia
BioSafety	Oct 19	Columbia
BioSafety	Nov 13	Columbia
BioSafety	Aug 24	School of Medicine
BioSafety	Oct 19	School of Medicine
RADIATION SAFETY		
4 Hour Radiation Safety Course	To be announced	
x-ray Safety	To be announced	
Laser Safety	To be announced	

Routine inspection of buildings and grounds is performed by the USC Beaufort facilities and maintenance staff. It is the goal of the campus administration to ensure that employees will at no time suffer any adverse health effects or injuries related to their work environment.

The USC Beaufort Emergency Plan and Procedures [\[iii\]](#) outlines the procedures that employees are to follow in the event of an emergency. Owing to its proximity to the South Carolina coast, USC Beaufort also has emergency procedures for preparation and evacuation in the event of a hurricane [\[iv\]](#). The Public Safety Director has evaluated software and the campus has implemented e2 Campus, an emergency notification system that allows the administration to issue immediate safety related notifications simultaneously to all registered mobile phones, Blackberrys, wireless PDAs, pagers, Smart or Satellite phones, and all email addresses, as well as posting notifications on the USC Beaufort Website, thereby delivering safety-related messages to all students and staff regardless of location.

Campus security is the responsibility of the Public Safety Department. The USC Beaufort Public

Safety Department is comprised of South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy Police Officers and a contingent of security personnel. The police officers employed by the USC Beaufort Public Safety Department are appointed and commissioned as State Constables by the Governor of South Carolina as provided by Code of Laws of South Carolina, Title 23, Chapter 1, Section 23-1-60, 1976, [v]. As such, they are empowered to enforce the laws of South Carolina, including the powers of arrest, anywhere in the state.

The Public Safety Department offers 24-hour coverage on the South Campus and 7 a.m. – 11 p.m. coverage on the North Campus, with immediate response to calls for service (student housing is located on the South Campus and requires public safety officers on duty at all times). During the off hours at the North Campus, emergency response will be made by the City of Beaufort law enforcement. During staffed hours at each respective campus, USC Beaufort public safety escort service is provided upon request for students arriving or moving around campus after dark and is arranged with a simple phone call to the public safety department.

The department produces an annual report [vi] which includes crime statistics that must be reported under THE JEANNE CLERY DISCLOSURE OF CAMPUS SECURITY POLICY AND CAMPUS CRIME STATISTICS ACT. This federal law was originally passed in 1990 as part of the Student Right-to-Know and Campus Security Act. It was amended in 1992 and 1998 by the Higher Education Amendment. It requires that all institutions of higher education which receive federal financial assistance produce an annual security report which is distributed to all current students and employees, and a summary of which is available to all prospective students and employees.

The summary of crime statistics are published annually in the Student Handbook [vii] and on the USC Beaufort website [viii].

Table 2 Campus Crime Statistics 2004-2006

CRIMINAL OFFENSES – ON CAMPUS	2004	2005	2006
Murder/Non-negligent manslaughter	N/A	0	0
Negligent manslaughter	N/A	0	0
Sex Offenses - Forcible	N/A	0	0
Sex Offenses-Non-forcible (only incest & statutory)	N/A	0	0
Robbery	N/A	0	1
Aggravated assault	N/A	0	0
Burglary	N/A	1	8 **
Motor vehicle theft	N/A	0	0
Arson	N/A	0	0
**Total of 8 Burglaries 6 occurring on the South Campus and 2 on the North Campus			

The University of South Carolina Beaufort has adopted the recommendation of the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), and the American College Health Association (ACHA) that all first year (incoming freshmen, under the age of 25) students provide proof of immunization against bacterial meningitis (Menactra) or provide a Meningitis Waiver Form declining the vaccination after reading the risks and hazards of bacterial meningitis as a condition of enrollment. Records are maintained in student records in the Office of Admissions [\[ix\]](#). In addition, education majors are required to be immunized against tuberculosis [\[x\]](#).

Housing students are required to have been immunized against both tuberculosis and hepatitis B. These requirements will be expanded to all students beginning fall 2008.

Students entering the Nursing Program must have several immunizations and provide documentation as required in the Nursing Student Handbook, Appendix C [\[xi\]](#).

The University of South Carolina Beaufort will maintain a safe and healthy work environment in an ongoing effort to protect each employee from potentially hazardous or unsafe conditions. [top](#)

Supporting Documentation

- [i University of South Carolina Environmental Health and Safety Program](#)
- [ii University of South Carolina Environmental Health and Safety Training Schedule](#)
- [iii USC Beaufort Emergency Plan and Procedures](#)
- [iv Hurricane Preparedness Plan](#)
- [v Code of Laws of South Carolina, Title 23, Chapter 1, Section 23-1-60, 1976](#)
- [vi Public Safety Department Annual Report](#)
- [vii USCB Beaufort Crime Statistics Summary Student Handbook](#)
- [viii USCB Beaufort Crime Statistics Summary website](#)
- [ix USC Beaufort Office of Admission Immunization Records](#)
- [x USC Beaufort Education Majors Handbook](#)
- [xi USC Beaufort Nursing Student Handbook](#)